

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 20 with:

This application is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/734,972, entitled, "Method for Efficient Modular Division Over Prime Integer Fields," filed on December 11, 2000, now U.S. Patent Number 6,772,972, which is itself a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/649,356, entitled, "Method for Efficient Modular Polynomial Division Over Finite Fields $F(2^M)$," filed on August 28, 2000, now U.S. Patent Number 6,721,771. This application hereby claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the above-referenced patent applications. The subject matter of this application is also related to the subject matter in a co-pending non-provisional application by the same inventors as the instant application and filed on the same day as the instant application entitled, "Method And Apparatus For Performing Modular Division Using Counters," having serial number ~~TO BE ASSIGNED~~10/091,962, and filing date ~~TO BE ASSIGNED~~March 5, 2002 (Attorney Docket No. SUN-P7019CIP).